(v) fuel switching to cleaner energy

(vi) afforestation and conservation of forests

(vii) promotion of clean coal technologies

(viii) reduction of gas flaring

(ix) encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems

(x) environmental quality management for all sectors

(c) and (d) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has introduced a Bio-diesel Purchase Policy with effect from 1.1.2006. Under this Policy, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) will purchase bio-diesel for blending with High Speed Diesel (HSD) to the extent of 5% at 20 identified purchase centres across the country. OMCs would buy bio-diesel at a uniform landed price, which is to be reviewed every six months. At present, the purchase price of bio-diesel is at Rs. 26.50 per litre with effect from 22.8.2006.

(e) Does not arise.

Mapping of 'Inviolate Areas' in Tiger Reserves

458. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government with an aim to project Tigers is mapping out 'inviolate areas' in every tiger reserve;

(b) in how many tiger reserves the mapping of 'inviolate areas' has taken up for inplementation and furnish the details of the progress made thereon;

(c) if so, whether any money has been earmarked to pay the tribal families identified for relocation and for the said mapping;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The criteria for establishing the core or critical tiger habitat in tiger reserves has been finalised, an action has been taken for delineating such areas by States based on the assessment made by Project Tiger (now the National Tiger Conservation Authority) and the Wildlife Institute of India.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 30 crores has been allocated for village relocation to create inviolate areas in identified core or critical tiger habitats in tiger reserves during the current financial year.

(e) Question does not arise.

Emission causing climate change

459. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial and highly developed countries, who are the members of the Inter Government Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) under the UN, have taken any initiative to bear the greatest responsibility to reduce emission that cause climate change;

(b) whether it is a fact that carbon di-oxide, methane and nitrous oxide have increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceed pre-industrial values; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to initiate to mitigate processes that go against nature and also impress upon UN Panel countries to give incentives to developing countries like India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Developed countries who are Party to Kyoto Protocol have emission reduction targets and overall they have to reduce their emissions by 5.2% during 2008-12 from 1990 levels. As per their National Communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change (UNFCCC), these Parties claim to be taking actions to achieve their targets. However it is early to judge whether they will be able to achieve their targets. Some non-Parties to Kyoto Protocol, namely, USA and Australia, have also taken some measures for reducing emissions.

(b) The amounts of carbon-di-oxide, methane and nitrous oxide have increased from the pre-industrial era to the year 2005 as follows:

Carbon dioxide	—	280 ppm to 379 parts per million (ppm)
Methane	—	715 ppb to 1774 parts per billion (ppb)
Nitrous oxide	—	270 ppb to 319 parts per billion (ppb)

(c) The Government is committed for sustainable development and for undertaking its responsibilities in consonance with the provisions of UNFCCC. The Government has been stating at the UNFCCC and other international meetings that Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), under which developing countries take mitigation efforts while following the path of economic growth and sustainable development, should be strengthened.

Environmental clearance

460. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to simplify the process of grant of environmental clearance to various projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of projects are pending with Government for environmental clearance; and

(d) if so, the extent to which simplifying the process of according environmental clearance will help in clearing the pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has revised Environmental Clearance Process through an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification issued vide S.O. No. 1533 (E) dated 14th September, 2006 superseding the earlier EIA Notification, 1994 to make the Environmental Clearance Process more transparent, efficient and de-centralized with certainty in time frame.

(c) 844 Projects in various sectors of developmental activities are pending for environmental clearance.